

To: Matthew Betenson[mbetenso@blm.gov]; Crow, Claire[ccrow@blm.gov]
Cc: Cynthia Staszak[cstaszak@blm.gov]
From: Beal, Jeffrey
Sent: 2017-03-01T16:03:06-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Wingate letter #2
Received: 2017-03-01T16:04:40-05:00
[Wingate Letter 03012017.docx](#)

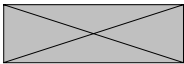
Thanks Claire for the comments. Your comments helped. I have edited the letter and am provided and updated version.

I have attached the edited version. At this point the letter is in Managements hands to review, edit and mail if it needs to go out in the next two weeks. Otherwise I can edit upon my return. I would guess that puts this out another 3-4 weeks. Managements call.

The letter can be found at the follow location:

Z:\Recreation\SpecialRecreationPermits\SRP Casefiles\WinGate

Jabe Beal, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Grand Staircase - Escalante National Monument
Escalante Interagency Office
PO Box 225
Escalante, Utah 84726
(435) 826-5601 wk.



[place name and address here]:

Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument (GSENM) has recently received letters expressing concerns about Wingate Wilderness Therapy Program, hereafter referred to as Wingate.

Wingate is a private corporation which holds a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) to operate a field based wilderness therapy program within Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. The area of operations is located within the Nephi Pasture, Skutumpah Terrace down to the Kitchen Canyon region of the Monument. The BLM issued this SRP in 2008 and the permit is up for renewal in 2018.

During the Christmas 2016 season, three juveniles left Wingate's program without permission. The Kane County Sheriff's department was contacted and an Everbridge alert was issued to residence in the local area. Based on this, as well as similar incidences in the past, our office has received letters of concern about Wingate's continued operation in the area. Two of the main concerns identified were public safety and the protection of private lands.

Our office has reviewed the December 2016 incident; we have discussed the issue with Wingate's Executive Director Shayne Gallagher and our Federal Law Enforcement officers. Our Law Enforcement Rangers worked closely with Kane County Sherriff's department on this incident and documented no impacts to private property owners or the general public. Our office is aware that past incidences have impacted private property owners, and BLM is assured that the private property owner and Wingate came to a resolution amongst themselves.

When the Monument was established in 1996, it was set aside for its Monument objects and scientific values. A small number of traditional public land uses were withdrawn, however many other traditional uses such as those covered by Special Recreation Permits remain as allowable uses on the Monument. GSENM employs science in each discipline to inform management of each activity allowed on the Monument. Our SRP operators, and specifically Wingate, are components of ongoing research on the Monument. The Monument does receive comments, complaints and voices of opposition on these types of uses, yet our office has an obligation to accept and review applications, and when appropriate allow for such uses if they are determined to not impact Monument objects and values. In addition, BLM is mandated to allow the public to provide comments on proposed uses.

Public health and safety are components that BLM takes into account when issuing Special Recreation Permits. Our office discussed the incident with Wingate as well as consulted with Kane County Sheriff's Department concerning public health and safety matters. Our discussions have not brought forth a collective issue to warrant permit modification or revocation. This does not preclude our office from meeting with concerned public or facilitating meetings with the operator so that the public can voice their concerns and bring forward design features that work for all parties.

Wingate's operation is an allowable use within the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. To date, Wingate has complied with the laws and regulations that guide their use of public lands. Although SRPs are discretionary, BLM typically does not cancel a permit without cause once that permit has been issued. Wingate's permit is up for renewal in December 2018. BLM has started preliminary work on

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preparing for an environmental assessment which will lead to the parameters of operation outlined in their new permit. The BLM hopes you will participate in providing public comments that help define their permit.

In the interim, BLM would be happy to set up a meeting with you to discuss your concerns in detail. In addition, our office is happy to take those concerns forward to Wingate to identify solutions that will help resolve public concerns. If you would like to meet my staff in person, please contact Jabe Beal, Outdoor Recreation Planner at (435) 826 5601 or jbeal@blm.gov.

Thank you for contacting our office. My office will work with you to address your concerns.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Staszak
Monument Manager

Cc: Shayne Gallagher, Wingate Wilderness Therapy